

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 263565

42

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: S/S- O LRMACFARLANE

APPROVED BY: S/S - LRMACFARLANE

----- 085727

O 261156Z OCT 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 263565

NODIS

CHEROKEE FOR WISNER

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM LONDON DTD 26 OCT 1976 QEE

S E C R E T LONDON 17062

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT PASS GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UK, US, RH

SUBJECT: YOUR LETTER TO CROSLAND

1. I DELIVERED YOUR LETTER TO CROSLAND THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 25. HE OPENED IT AND READ IT CAREFULLY, THEN RE-READ PORTIONS ALOUD.
2. I MENTIONED AT THE BEGINNING THAT I WOULD BE CALLING THE PRIME MINISTER THE NEXT DAY TO CONVEY A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.
3. CROSLAND BEGAN THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING HE SYMPA-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 263565

THIZED WITH THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN YOUR LETTER. HE

SAID YOU WERE WELL AWARE HOWEVER THAT THERE IS GREAT RESISTANCE IN THE CABINET TO EXCESSIVE INVOLVEMENT BY THE UK IN THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. HIS DECISION NOT TO OPEN PERSONALLY THE GENEVA TALKS SPRANG MORE FROM A CONCERN ABOUT A CABINET DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE THAN FROM A RELUCTANCE TO DEVALUE RICHARD'S POSITION. HE MUSED THAT IT WAS HARD TO JUDGE WHAT FURTHER DEGREE OF UK INVOLVEMENT MIGHT BE AHEAD. FINANCIAL INVOLVEMENT WILL BE A TOUGH BONE, MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FORESEE WHAT SORT OF POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE CALLED FOR. HE THEN ASKED WHAT CONCERNED YOU ABOUT THE BRITISH ROLE AND WHAT HAD PROMPTED THE LETTER.

4. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW THE GENESIS OF THE LETTER. MY CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, HOWEVER, HAD REVEALED AN AMERICAN CONVICTION THAT FIRM BRITISH LEADERSHIP AT THE GENEVA TALKS AND STRONG BRITISH ADHERENCE TO MUTUALLY AGREED POSITIONS ARE KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE I SAID I HAD NOT ENCOUNTERED ANY SPECIAL PREOCCUPATION WITH BRITISH MONETARY OR MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT BUT RATHER THE BELIEF THAT IF THE UK IS STEADFAST AT THE CONFERENCE, THEN HALF THE BATTLE IS WON.

5. AT THIS POINT I MENTIONED THAT WE LOOKED TO IVOR RICHARD TO SET THE TONE OF PRESS RELATIONS IN GENEVA; BUT WE FELT THAT SOME OF HIS RECENT COMTNTS TO THE PRESS HAD NOT BEEN HELPFUL. CROSLAND SAID HE THOUGHT RICHARD HAD NOT BEEN OUT OF LINE AND HAD GONE NO FURTHER PUBLICLY THAN YOU YOURSELF HAD. I EMPHASIZED OUR CONCERN THAT PUBLIC SPECULATION IN GENEVA WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON THE COURSE OF THE TALKS. I SAID I WOULD SEND TO CROSLAND AN EXAMPLE OR TWO OF RICHARD'S COMMENTS WHICH WE FOUND DISTURBING.

6. CROSLAND THEN RETURNED TO THE CONTENTS OF YOUR LETTER, SEEMING NOW TO HAVE DIGESTED IT. HE SAID THE BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IS ALREADY GREATER THAN ENVISAGED IN ANNEX C. THE BRITISH HAVE ORGANIZED A CONFERENCE AND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 263565

SENT A STRONG TEAM TO GENEVA. RICHARD WILL BE ACTIVE AND DEEPLY ENGAGED IN THE BARGAINING. "AFTER ALL," CROSLAND SAID, "IVOR HAS A NAME TO MAKE THERE." FCO JUDGMENT ARGUED THAT MORE INVOLVEMENT BY BRITAIN AT THIS STAGE WOULD PLAY INTO NATIONALIST HANDS; THE BRITISH WOULD BE FORCED TO HAGGLE WITH SMITH, WHICH NEITHER THE US NOR THE UK WANTS. MOREOVER, SMITH IS ATTRACTED TO ANNEX C PRECISELY BECAUSE IT IS A RHODESIAN AFFAIR AND DOES NOT

ENVISAGE A BRITISH ROLE DURING THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT.

7. "WE ALWAYS SEEM TO GET BACK TO THE WRETCHED QUESTION OF ANNEX C", CROSLAND SAID. "YOU KNOW IT WAS JUST A DISCUSSION PAPER." I REPLIED THAT I KNEW THE BACKGROUND AND DIFFICULTIES OF THE ANNEX. I STRESSED OUR BELIEF THAT THE ANNEX MUST BE THE BASIS FOR COMPROMISE AT GENEVA AND THAT WE CANNOT GO BEYOND ITS PROVISIONS. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT AGREEMENT BASED ON THE ANNEX PROVIDES AN UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SETTLE RHODESIA WHICH CROSLAND AND THE LABOR GOVERNMENT ARE UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO SEIZE. CROSLAND SAID RICHARD WILL HAVE TO MAKE THE TACTICAL DECISION BUT THAT HE WILL EVENTUALLY TABLE SOMETHING CLOSE TO ANNEX C.

8. BY NOW, CROSLAND FEIGNED NOT TO UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF YOUR LETTER. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE UK WAS DOING EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANTED. "WE WON'T BE PASSIVE," HE SAID. "THERE NEEDN'T BE ANY FEARS. HENRY CAN BE TOTALLY SATISFIED. BUT IF HE WANTS US TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENTLY, HE'LL HAVE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC."

9. COMMENT: CROSLAND HAS RECEIVED OTHER LETTERS FROM YOU WHICH HE NO DOUBT FOUND MORE AGREEABLE. HIS ARGUMENT THAT INCREASED BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN FACT MEANS MOVING AWAY FROM ANNEX C TO WHICH WE ATTACH SO MUCH IMPORTANCE STRUCK ME AS COY. HE REACTED AS IF HE WERE SURPRISED THAT THERE SHOULD BE DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS BETWEEN US ABOUT THE DEGREE OR SPIRIT OF BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN THE TALKS. HE WAS PROBABLY A LITTLE ANNOYED, BELIEVING THE UK HAS ALREADY GONE FURTHER THAN WISDOM OR EXPERIENCE WOULD ADVISE. STILL, IF HE DOES ENTERTAIN PRIVATE DOUBTS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 263565

ABOUT THE BRITISH ROLE, HE CLEARLY GOT YOUR MESSAGE.

ARMSTRONG UNQTE KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, CHEROKEE 10/26/76
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE263565
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O LRMACFARLANE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760007-0774
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761017/aaaaaofh.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <11 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YOUR LETTER TO CROSLAND
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UK, US, RH, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (CROSLAND, ANTHONY), (RICHARD, IVOR)
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006